

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF GREAT DRIFFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report with Vital Statistics of the whole District, for the year ending 31st December 1908.

The number of births and deaths registered show that there were 154 births and 103 deaths, with an estimated population of 5810, as compared with 130 births and 100 deaths for the year 1907.

Of the births there were 69 males and 85 females. The birth-rate was equal to 26.5 per 1000, as compared with 22.37 for last year, an increase of 4.2 per 1000. The average birth-rate for the last five years was 24.6. So that the birth-rate of this year is very favourable compared with other years, but still low. The birth-rate for England and Wales was exactly the same as our District 26.5, for the 76 great towns it was 27.0.

Of the deaths there were 45 males and 58 females. The death-rate was 17.7 per 1000, a fraction more than last year, but the corrected death-rate was 17.5. Last year the corrected death-rate was 15.6. The death-rate for England and Wales was 14.7 per 1000 living.

The Infantile mortality under one year was 14, compared with 11 last year. The death-rate per 1000 births registered was 90.9 compared with only 84.6 last year. The average death-rate per 1000 births registered for the last five years was 101.6

For England and Wales the Infant mortality was 121 per 1000 births, and for the 76 great towns 128.

The most fatal period of life was at 65 years and upwards, the number being 46 as compared with 40 last year; from 25 to 65 years there were 28, and under one year 14 deaths; from 1 to 5 years there were 6; from 5 to 15 one death; and from 15 to 25 seven.

The causes of death were Tuberculous Diseases 13, as compared with 12 last year; Bronchitis 7, Cancer 5, compared with 14 cases last year, and 4 for 1906; Epidemic Influenza 4, Pneumonia 4, compared with 6 the previous year; Premature Birth 5, Heart Disease 17, Old Age 13, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 1.

There were 11 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year, as compared with 12 last year, 26 in 1906, and 31 in 1905.

There were 4 cases of Diphtheria compared with 3 last year, 4 Erysipelas, 1 Scarlet Fever, and 2 Enteric Fever. There was one death from Diphtheria. The Enteric Fever cases were traced, at least the first, to the Rural District. The drainage and water supply were examined with a negative result.

One death occurred from a notifiable Infectious disease, viz., Diphtheria, last year there was none, but in 1906 there were three, and in 1905 five.

In Table V. of the Vital Statistics the following are the causes entered of the 14 deaths of Infants:—Premature Birth 5 cases, Congenital Defects, viz., Icterus Neonatorum 2, Convulsions 2, Inarasmus 1, Tuberculous Diseases 2, Bronchitis 1, Pneumonia 1.

The house accommodation of the working classes is evidently at present more than sufficient, as there appear to be some empty houses, and no case of over-crowding has been reported. For some years the house accommodation has much improved.

Our sewerage system is perfectly well-known to you all. I have mentioned several times that the town is sewered throughout, the Filtration Area and settling tanks where the sewage is purified are five acres in extent, but it is a pity so much spring and surface water enter the sewers, the amount per hour is so great that the settling tanks do not get fairly treated.

Public scavengers remove house refuse and night soil very early in the morning to the lower part of the Filtration Area. For agricultural purposes it is in great demand.

Tub-closets and water-closets are in vogue, the tub-closets are cleansed weekly and disinfected, but I think ashes and earth should be more freely used as deodorants.

The drinking water from the Waterworks is plentiful and pure, but it is very hard in common with well and bore water, which from several samples sent to Leeds for bacteriological and other examinations is found sometimes to be suspicious, and occasionally contaminated from surface water and otherwise, but occasionally good.

Nuisances are invariably abated when reported to the Sanitary Committee.

Systematic visits are made regularly and reported in the Sanitary Inspector's Journals to the Sanitary Committee at their Monthly Meetings.

The Canal Boats have been inspected on several occasions during the year. No case of Infectious disease nor over-crowding have been reported. The number plying on the Canal is considerably less than last year, the number being 64 compared with 84, and the number of persons on board reduced from 305 to 141. This is probably due to bad trade and unemployment.

The Workshops, including Wholesale and Retail Bakehouses and Laundries, 19 in number, and Workplaces 52 in number, including Tailors, Milliners, Dressmakers, Bootmakers, Farriers, Brickyards, Beer-Bottling, &c. have been examined. Three nuisances were reported and remedied. It has been suggested that water-closets instead of tub-closets should be constructed and their localities inspected.

Common Lodging-houses have been inspected monthly and found in a satisfactory condition.

Cowsheds 25 in number containing 152 cows have been inspected monthly, two complaints have been made, viz., too much manure being kept on the premises. They are limewashed half-yearly. The cows are groomed and the manure from their haunches removed, but I do not think sufficient care is taken in washing the cow's udders and flanks, and moistening the udder with boiled water before milking, the milker's hands should also be washed and an overall put on before starting to milk. This probably would lower the death-rate from Tuberculosis, which was the cause of one of our highest death-rates during 1908.

The Slaughter-houses have been inspected regularly and found to be satisfactory.

The following nuisances have been abated : Drains 7, Ashpits 2, Privies 8, Gas Escape 1, House disinfected after Infectious Disease 10, Impure Water 3.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BURGESS.

